

Chapter One
OVERVIEW

1.1 Lincoln Park Site Plan



1.2 Plan Summary

Introduction

Lincoln Park is one of Seattle's largest and most popular parks. Its 135 acres of open space provide a broad range of landscape types and a rich variety of recreational opportunities. Significant interactions between users and park vegetation, as well as the inherent needs of plants and wildlife, drive this Vegetation Management Plan. Lincoln Park offers a unique opportunity to manage stands of native and non-native trees in forested and open settings, for future generations of Park users to enjoy.

Site Description

Lincoln Park is composed of approximately 64% forested natural area, 16% developed landscape area, 12% shoreline and 8% managed recreation space (playground, ballfields, etc). The large, fairly level upland area includes open and forested portions, and is bordered to the west by a steep bluff that drops a dramatic 100 feet to the saltwater shoreline below. Vegetation ranges from turf to open lawn with trees, to intact and invaded native forest, madrona groves, weedy slide slopes, wetlands, beach grass, and ornamental landscape beds.

History

Lincoln Park was purchased by the city in 1922, for \$104,186. Although it was recommended for inclusion in the original 1903 Olmsted park system, the Olmsteds never were commissioned to complete a plan for Lincoln Park, nor a parkway linking it with Schmitz Preserve. The park landscape most likely evolved under the hand of various Parks gardeners, without benefit of an overall plan. As a result, an interesting mix of native and ornamental plant species conmingle in the park today, but it lacks a clearly organized trail system. Bluff landslides are an important part of the park's past as well as an inevitable aspect of its future. Despite Lincoln Park's tremendous popularity, much of the park's native vegetation has been conserved over time, representing a significant legacy and key to its landscape character.

VMP Goals

The following overall goals were established for the vegetation management plan, based on citizen comments and detailed resource evaluation:

- **Respect the unique landscaped character of the park**
- **Manage vegetation to support diverse and appropriate human uses**
- **Protect and enhance native vegetation**
- **Protect and enhance wildlife habitat**

Public Process

As for all Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation projects, VMP development involves a prescribed Public Involvement Process (PIP). For the Lincoln Park plan, existing vegetation first was sampled in random plots, after which a public meeting was held to discuss initial findings and gather user concerns (April 2001). Citizen concerns are noted in Chapter 3 of the plan. At a second public meeting (May 2002), Urban Forestry staff presented key issues and a detailed overview of the draft VMP. This document then was posted to the Seattle Parks website and copies made available at local libraries for a three week review period. Final plan adoption incorporating public comment follows internal departmental review and signoff. The adopted VMP will be posted to the Web; limited bound copies will be distributed to libraries and parties directly engaged in its implementation (both staff and volunteers).

Management Area Recommendations

For the purposes of vegetation management, Lincoln Park has been divided into seven distinct Management Areas. These have been defined based on analysis of existing resource characteristics, geographic features, and primary landscape uses. As delineated in Chapter 10, **Appendix F, Map F-6**, these Management Areas include:

Management Area A	Shoreline
Management Area B	Bluff
Management Area C	Forest
Management Area D	Passive Use Greensward
Management Area E	Lawn / Ballfields
Management Area F	Active Use Greensward
Management Area G	Native/Ornamental Landscape

Several key management recommendations recur among the Management Areas:

- Monitor potential hazard trees and protect trees from use-related damage.
- Eliminate or reduce the presence of invasive plants.
- Enhance vegetation quality and character, both native and ornamental.
- Mitigate compacted soils and eliminate further soil compaction.
- Reduce social trails that fragment native vegetation.

1.3 How to Use This Plan

The purpose of this plan is to direct ongoing vegetation management at Lincoln Park. Depending upon one's interests, particular chapters of this document will prove useful. The VMP is designed to be both broad in its perspective and specific enough to guide the practical care of Lincoln Park's vegetation. This section lays out the essential content and organization of the plan, so that readers may quickly access what is most relevant to their focus and needs.

Chapters 1 – 5 provide baseline resource assessment and contextual information, and goal setting upon which the “working” VMP sections which follow are built. During resource assessment, fourteen existing Vegetation Zones were identified within the park, sorted by plant composition. These subsequently were distilled into seven distinct Vegetation Management Areas where particular actions are needed to maintain, enhance or restore targeted vegetation communities.

Chapter 6, Vegetation Management Recommendations provides clear direction regarding what should be done, where it should be done, and when it should be done. This chapter includes a seasonal schedule of tasks for each Management Area within the park. **Chapter 7**, Management and Maintenance Practices details how to perform tasks prescribed in Chapter 6. **Chapter 8**, Implementation describes who should undertake particular tasks, differentiating activities best performed by professional staff from those which present opportunities for citizen stewardship, volunteer and /or corporate involvement in coordination with park staff. Implementation priorities also are identified, and budget estimates provided.

Chapter 9, Monitoring Plan lays forth measurable means to determine if vegetation management goals and objectives are being met. **Chapter 10**, Appendices provides useful supplementary information, including site maps, photographs, references, public comment log and madrona management recommendations. The VMP may be read and used as a whole, or by tapping stand-alone elements to guide specific vegetation management projects; the document was conceived with flexibility and accessibility in mind.